

From: [Geoff Ellsworth](#)
To: [Griffis, Amanda](#); [Lederer, Steven](#); [Ramirez, Alice](#)
Cc: [Cottrell, Anne](#); [Paul Bocanegra](#); [Robert Dresser](#)
Subject: Public Comment for Upper Valley Waste Management Agency 8/18/25 - Continued concerns related to Clover Flat Landfill/Upper Valley Disposal Service
Date: Monday, August 18, 2025 12:24:01 PM

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Good afternoon,

Geoff Ellsworth here, former mayor of St. Helena and now a member of Ca. LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens) and the Ca. LULAC Napa Valley Waste Workers Advocacy Committee.

I will not be in attendance at today's meeting but I hope for the record that you will be able to state that I have submitted this Public Comment.

I am sharing with you my Comments that I submitted to to the San Francisco Regional Water Board last week on Aug. 13

These comments are also being shared with numerous other State agencies, as will be a recent National level LULAC Resolution on impacts to Latino Waste Workers with specific reference to Clover Flat Landfill/Upper Valley Disposal Service.

We continue to advocate at all levels and with all relevant Ca. public agencies for Public Hearings with sworn testimony on these matters.

Thank you,
Geoff Ellsworth

Public Comment from Geoff Ellsworth to the San Francisco Regional Water Board Wed. August 13th 2025

Please distribute to Board and Staff, thank you.

Good Morning Chair Strauss Hacker, Board and Staff, my name is Geoff Ellsworth Former Mayor of St. Helena, Napa County (2018-2022) now a member of California LULAC - the League of United Latin American Citizens and the Ca. LULAC Napa Valley Waste Workers Advisory Committee.

As I've spoken to here before there are significant concerns with long term impacts and lack of accountability to the primarily Latino workforce at Upper Valley Disposal Service/Clover Flat Landfill in Napa County including significant exposure to the toxic wastewater that is in your purview, as well as fires, unregulated radioactive waste and a Latino worker fatality.

I've just returned from the LULAC National conference in Southern California where a national level LULAC Resolution was adopted addressing this matter, including reference to additional Latino waste worker deaths in the San Francisco Bay Area since the beginning of just this year at other waste companies in the jurisdiction of the San Francisco Bay Area Regional Water Board. These recent deaths of Latino workers occurred at Recology in Brisbane and the ALCO scrap metal facility in San Leandro, both in the jurisdiction of the San Francisco Bay Area Regional Water Board, clearly indicating a systemic problem (see links below). I will provide the LULAC National level Resolution as it is finalized.

Our Ca. LULAC Waste Worker Advisory Committee has met on this issue as well with the Ca. Dept. of Labor and office of Ca. Assemblymember Liz Ortega of the 20th District that includes San Leandro and who has raised significant concerns regarding a breakdown of oversight on these matters.

We'll also be reaching out to the Assembly representative from the 21st District representing Brisbane and we are hearing from more Latino workers who point to systemic problems in reporting water and environmental contamination, workplace safety concerns and civil rights concerns.

These comments are also being provided to leadership at LULAC California and National leadership, as well

as to the Ca. State level Water Board and other relevant agencies.

The tragic deaths and the mistreatment of these Latino waste workers, including at Upper Valley Disposal Service/Clover Flat Landfill in Napa County, highlight a larger environmental problem when waste workers are untrained, fearful or unable to register complaints over mismanagement of toxic/contaminated and fire prone waste material that can escape into the broader environment and public waterways that are the purview of the Water Board.

In light of ongoing national events, the commitment to racial equity and protection of Civil Rights is up to all of us, and each of us, on a day to day basis on a board level, staff level and personal level, it's all of our responsibility.

The Water Board Racial Equity Action Plan combined with current state and federal laws as well as Water Board **Resolution 2021-0050** can be implemented towards addressing these systemic breakdowns.

Again I ask this matter be agendized by this board and staff in hearings with sworn testimony at the soonest possible juncture.

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Jan. 8, 2025, ALCO scrap metal facility Latino worker fatality, San Leandro CA. (East Bay Area). The third fatality at this company in 8 years.

<https://www.ktvu.com/news/alco-3-workers-killed-san-leandro-company-cal-osh-has-no-power-shut-down>

[3 workers killed at San Leandro company; Cal-OSHA has no power to shut down](#)

3 workers killed at San Leandro company; Cal-OSHA has no power to shut down

www.ktvu.com

May 16, 2025 Latino worker fatality at Recology waste facility in Brisbane, Ca. (just south of San Francisco)

<https://www.ktvu.com/news/family-recology-worker-say-death-could-have-been-prevented>

[Family of Recology worker say death could have been 'prevented'](#)

Family of Recology worker say death could have been 'prevented'

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